

The Collegian

Volume 116 2018-2019

Article 7

11-6-2018

Volume 116, Number 7 - Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Saint Mary's College of California

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.stmarys-ca.edu/collegian>



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Saint Mary's College of California (2018) "Volume 116, Number 7 - Tuesday, November 6, 2018," *The Collegian*: Vol. 116 , Article 7.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.stmarys-ca.edu/collegian/vol116/iss1/7>

This Issue is brought to you for free and open access by Saint Mary's Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Collegian by an authorized editor of Saint Mary's Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@stmarys-ca.edu.



The Collegian

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

MORAGA, CALIFORNIA • VOLUME 116, NUMBER 7 • STMARYSCOLLEGIAN.COM • TWITTER: @SMC_COLLEGIAN • FACEBOOK.COM/SMCCOLLEGIAN

A Gael walks into a bar... on campus!



THE ON-CAMPUS BAR, THE 1928, IS OFFICIALLY OPEN yet the students are still unable to purchase alcohol as St. Mary's awaits its liquor license. (Courtesy of Sarah Knebel)

BY: ADRIANA AVILA
CULTURE EDITOR

Saint Mary's very own on-campus pub, better known as The 1928, opened its doors on Thursday, October 25. Its modern aesthetic and sophisticated flair make it the newest on-campus gathering spot for alumni, faculty, staff, and students of all ages.

The 1928 is located in between Dryden Hall and Cafe Louis, and occupies what was once called the Cassin Student Union. Currently, Associated Students is in the process of planning an event to officially change the signage from "Cassin Student Union" to "The 1928." The event is scheduled to take place in mid-November.

Like Cassin Student Union, The 1928 is open 24/7, but the food and drink aspect will only be open on Thursdays from 5p.m. to 11p.m. and Fridays/Saturdays from 5p.m. to 12a.m., with a possibility of opening earlier and staying open later on game days.

Since The 1928 is run by Sodexo, students may use their Gael Flex on food and nonalcoholic beverages. The pub serves an assortment of food, appetizers, and snacks such as gluten free pasta, hot sandwiches and flatbreads. Many cheese and meat options are available, but there are limited vegan alternatives. A rotating menu will cycle through roughly each month, ensuring that items that are unpopular will be phased out so that new ideas are brought in.

Alcoholic purchases will be approved through ID scanners and monitored through wristbands. There will be a three

drink limit for alcoholic beverages. To keep track of this, customers will receive a wristband with 3 tabs and one tab will be removed for each drink. An ID scanner will be used for any alcoholic purchases and will keep track of the individual's purchase history for the day.

The current beer and wine menu is a result of responses gathered from an Associated Students survey that was sent out during the summer. The 1928's alcohol menu contains a handful of wine and beer options accompanied with witty descriptions. For Stella Artois the description reads, "Pretentious Belgian lager with full flavor and a clean, crisp taste that will help you seem like a sophisticated beer drinker." Bud Light's reads, "The number one best selling beer in the world. Yes, this still qualifies as beer."

In addition to beer and wine, The 1928 offers Nitro Cold Brew Coffee and two flavors of Kombucha on Tap.

Beer and wine will be sold as soon as the pub receives their liquor license. On behalf of Sodexo, Gail Dillon, the general manager, told The Collegian, "We hope to have our beer/wine license by mid-November. We will get this info out as soon as we do."

On Monday Oct. 22, a small food tasting event was held in The 1928. The event served as a way to let Sodexo employees and management gauge what to improve on and expect from future customers. The Sodexo employees

were very open to feedback and suggestions. Dillon commented that, "Faculty and stu-

We hope to have our beer/wine license by mid-November.

dents love the food and are wanting the beer and wine. We are getting great feedback on the room and that we have music playing."

Many of those who attended the event were Associated Student members. Deja

Hermosillo, Chair for the class of 2020, shared her thoughts with The Collegian after the food tasting event and said, "We need more pub food. We need fries."

Associated Student Body President, Rob Gonzalez took initiative and created a survey for those who attended the event. "We got a wide variety of opinions and input from our surveys, but the main concern was the contrast between the food menu and the space," said Gonzalez. Gonzalez continued and said, "We have sent the results to Sodexo and they have already confirmed that the menu will be changing every so often so hopefully our input about more 'bar' food will be implemented soon!"

Gonzalez encourages the community to visit the new pub, "Everyone should go visit The 1928 because it is very different than any other space on campus! There is definitely a "restaurant-y" vibe in this new space, as well as some more chiller places to hang out. In addition, it's just another place to eat on campus, especially during the weekends!"

Those interested in booking The 1928 for future events will book through Student Programming. Dillon told the Collegian that more information about this opportunity is to come.

"We hope everyone likes what has been created for them!" said Dillon.

For more information about The 1928, you may contact Gail Dillon at gail.dillon@sodexo.com.

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S EDITION

NEWS PAGE 2

Report and Analysis of second tuition increase



One reporter's take on CAB's Pirates of Emerson excursion

OPINION PAGE 4

A news satire: how to afford tuition the painful way



PAGE 5

How important are extra-curricular courses to your major?

CULTURE PAGE 6

Day light savings: is it time to lose it entirely?

Dia De Los Muertos and what it means to students



SPORTS PAGE 7

Finally, Sacramento makes for a positive headline in sports.

Why are the Los Angeles Rams so good?



THE INSIDE PAGE



The Collegian
SAINT MARY'S COLLEGE OF CALIFORNIA

P.O. Box 4407
Moraga, CA 94575
206 Ferroggiaro Hall

www.stmaryscollegian.com
staff@stmaryscollegian.com

Telephone: (925) 631-4279
Facebook.com/smccollegian
Twitter: @SMC_Collegian

SARAH KNEBEL
TERRILYN HO
Editors-in-Chief

HUNTER HERSHEY
KEVIN BASMADJIAN
News Editors

KERRY-ANNE LOUGHMAN
CAROLINE BINLEY
Opinion Editors

ADRIANA AVILA
CLARICE ONG
Culture Editors

HENRY PEÑALOSA
MATTHEW MCFETRIDGE
Sports Editors

JACK BARNES
Copy Editor

KRISTEN GEIBEL
Photo Editor

ELLEN RIGSBY
Faculty Adviser

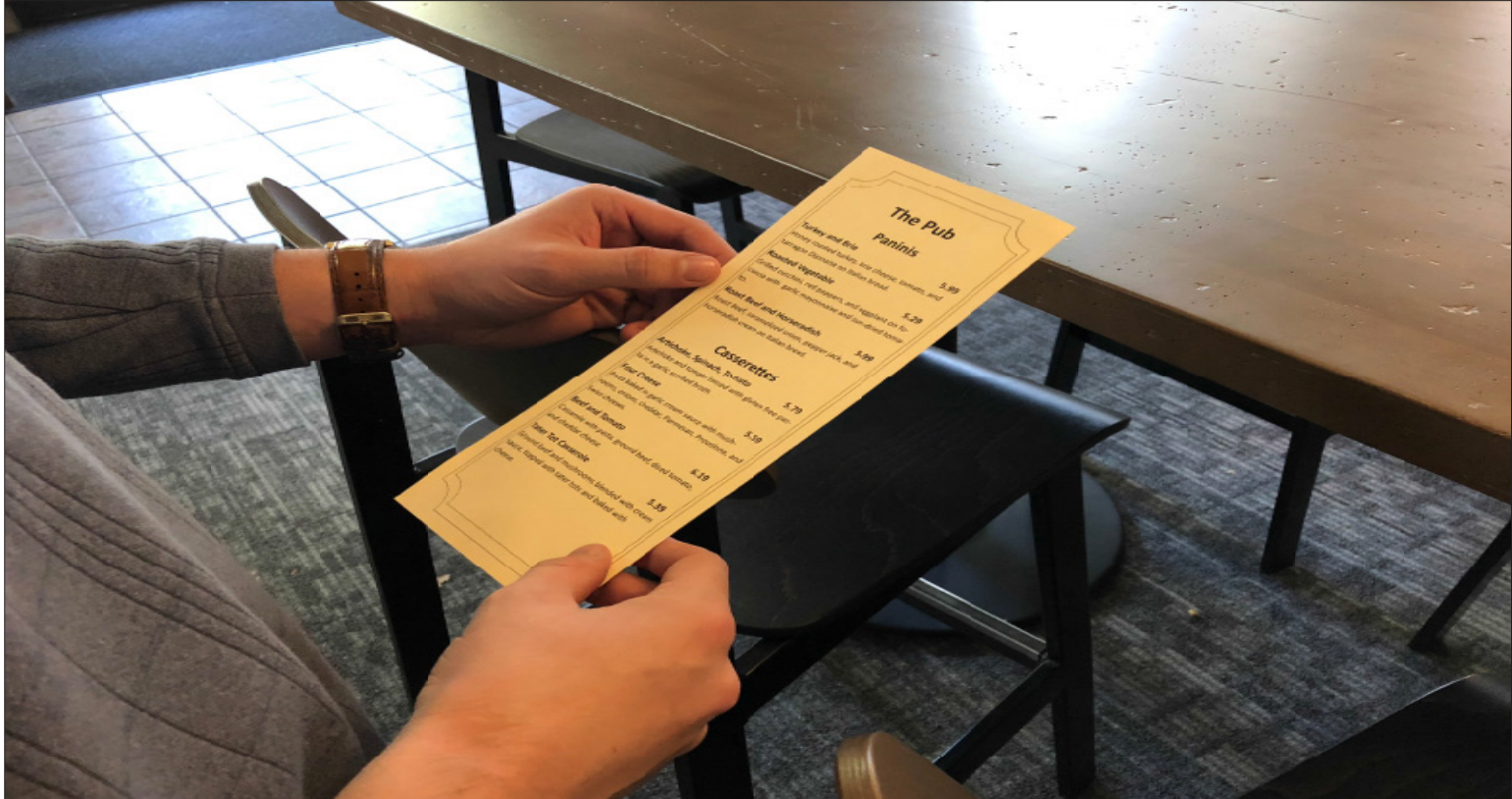
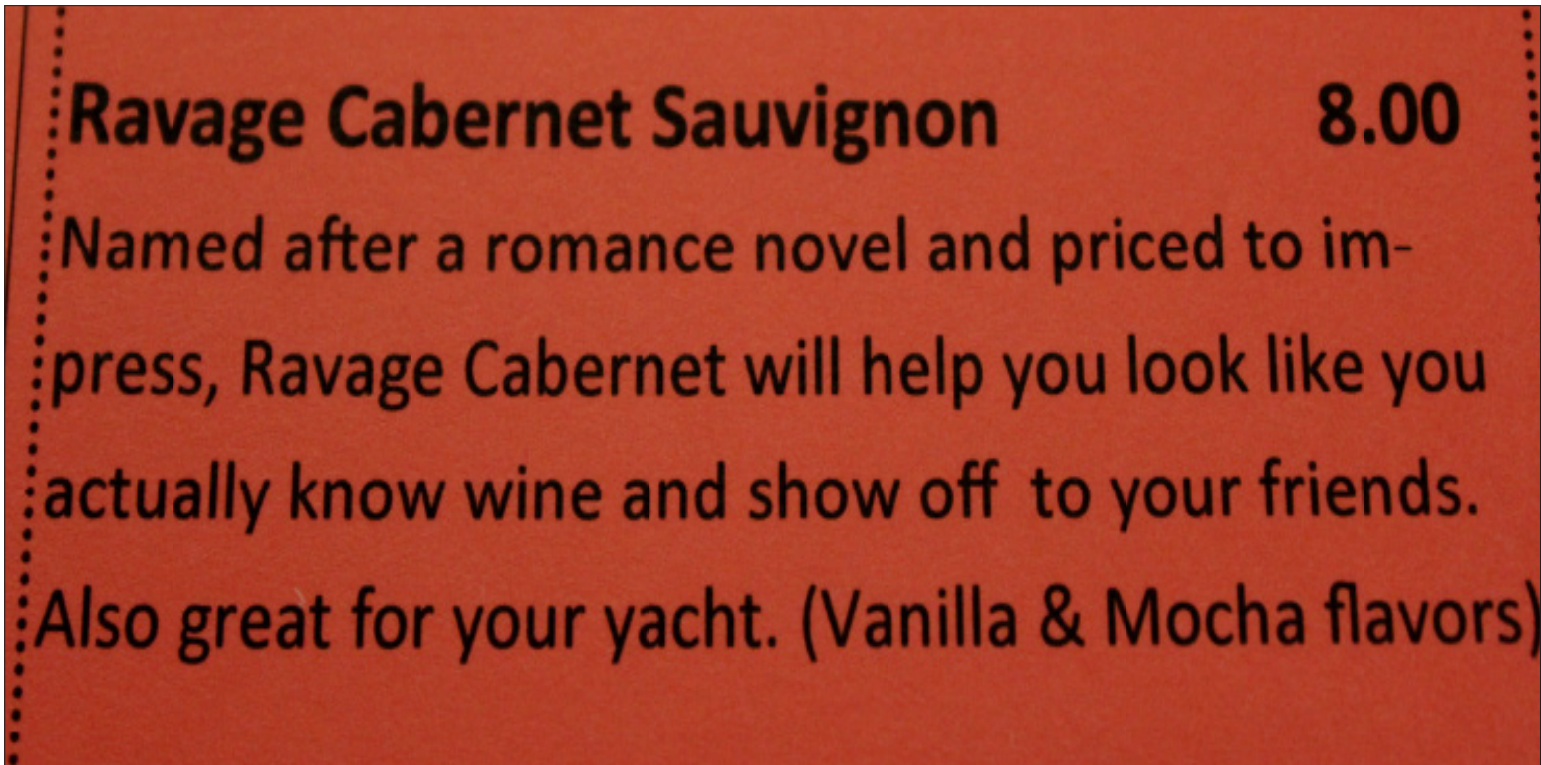


The Collegian is the official newspaper of Saint Mary's College, published weekly, except during examination periods and academic recesses. The Collegian reserves the right to hold and edit all submitted materials, solicited and unsolicited. The Collegian's Editorial Board is comprised of all oversight staff members. Other opinions expressed are not necessarily endorsed by The Collegian, its contributors and/or advertisers. Advertisers do not necessarily reflect the view of The Collegian. The Collegian strives for accuracy and fairness in the reporting of news. If a report is wrong or misleading, a request for a correction or clarification may be made.



*"To act upon one's convictions while others wait,
To create a positive force in a world
where cynics abound,
To provide information to people when
it wasn't available before,
To offer those who want it, a choice—"*
—TED TURNER

A closer look into the grand Opening of the on-campus pub: "The 1928"



THE COLLEGIAN ATTENDED a brief tasting, hosted by the new pub, where we were able to sample the amenities that are to be offered at the 1928. (Photos courtesy of Kristen Geibel)

NEWS

Another tuition increase is slated for 2019-2020 And what it means: An analysis

BY: JOSEPH FOARD
STAFF WRITER

Susan Collins, Saint Mary’s Vice President of finance and administration, confirmed that student tuition costs would be raised by 3.94 percent for the 2019-2020 school year. This tuition increase succeeds the modest 3.5 percent tuition increase for the current 2018-2019 school year. With this adjustment, tuition will rise to \$48,988 per source.

“What we try and do is keep our tuition within a reasonable range,” Collins told the Collegian. “But every year we’re facing increased costs, particularly for our faculty and staff for their salaries and their employee benefits and the total cost of our employees is about 65 percent of our overall budget, and so, if we want to compensate them properly, we have to have the resources to do so.”

“The costs of running a university—like Saint Mary’s—increases due to many factors outside of our control,” Collins stated, “including inflation and governmental regulations.”

In an email from James A. Donahue, distributed on October 18th, the students were informed of the increased tuition costs slated for the 2019-2020 school year. It reads:

“The Board of Trustees for SMC held its annual fall meeting on October 11. After careful analysis and thoughtful deliberation, the board decided to approve increases in the undergraduate tuition (3.94%), student fees (\$50.00),

and room and board rates (1.0%) for academic year of 2019-20.”

“We also face increases in our operating costs,” Collins stated. “For example, maintaining our facilities. The cost of maintaining our facilities is impacted by the costs of operating in the Bay area. When we need to make repairs on items, we bring in an external company to complete the work. We pay the prevailing rates in our area for the labor and materials necessary to complete the project. There has been a high demand for skilled labor in our area due to the wildfire damages and the costs of construction and renovation have shot up dramatically as a result.” Collins also stated: “every year we try and do some renovations within the dorms. One or two dorms every year.”

“So for this 2018-2019 year that we’re in now, we only increased tuition; we did not increase the cost of room and board,” Collins told the Collegian. “But there’s a room and board increase for 2019-2020 of 1 percent, and that is because the food costs go up on an annual basis; the cost of the food served by Sodexo increases in much the same way as the food you buy in the grocery store.”

When asked if the 3.5 percent tuition increase during the 2018-2019 school year was unable to cover faculty and maintenance costs, Collins stated that “The tuition increase in 2018-2019 was able to cover these increased costs. Costs tend to increase on an annual basis.”

BY: HUNTER HERSHEY
NEWS EDITOR

It is no secret that frustration rates rise intrinsically with that of tuition. However, it is important to understand why and how this happens. Come next Fall, when the air is filled with the tangible nervousness of perspective students and unsettled sighs of tuition payers alike, one truth will prevail: St. Mary’s will officially have higher tuition than Harvard.

While this may seem unnerving, a brief analysis of the trend in question will show that this increase in rates bodes far better for us now than it did for students and tuition payers in years past.

First, it is essential to understand what Susan Collins meant when she said: “tuition is reviewed on an annual basis.” In accordance with inflation rates, a surge in demand for higher education, the need for faculty (and a way to pay them), and the need to make up for reduction in government subsidies, tuition rates will continue to rise each year. With that said, it is should be, in no ways, considered evasive to state tuition is reviewed yearly. It is necessary to ensure that there is still a College at all.

Secondly, according to the Collegian archives, the rates we are experiencing are exponentially less than previous decades and we are, in fact, still enjoying downward trend. For example, in an article published in February of 1999, by Staff Writer Heather McCourtie, we see their 4 percent tuition increase “is a sign of increases declining to a record low.” She continues to write, “the tuition increase in 1980 was an all-time

high of 14.5 percent while 1990 saw a 9 percent increase and 1997 was at 6 percent.”

M. Freeman and S. Wang, two editors for the Collegian in 2009, expounded upon the aforementioned trends when the increase tuition rates reached an all-time low of 2 percent. “It was clear that the undergraduate tuition rate increases, that had averaged 7 percent over the past decade (2001-2009), were no longer tenable.” Now, there have been two main concerns with the tuition increases of late: “where is my money going?” and “how does this affect financial aid?”

The answer is difficult to encapsulate into a single idea; luckily, there is a single method that sheds light on these inquiries: evaluate the trend. According to the College Board, between the years 2008-09 and 2018-19, published in-state tuition and fees at four-year institutions increased at an average rate of 3.1% per year beyond inflation, compared with average annual increases of 4.1% and 4.2% over the two prior decades.

The truth of the matter: the cost of tuition will continue to rise year after year in order to cover the school’s increasing need for money; there is no debating that. What is clear is the desperate need to retain professors and maintain the facilities on campus as both the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 tuition increases have been cited as contributing to the cost of those categories. As a College in the Bay Area, one must wonder how we plan to alter tuition to keep pace with the inflation rates of one of the most expensive areas to live in America.

Pirates of Emerson haunted theme park review

BY: RAMYA RAMAMOORTHY
STAFF WRITER

In order to get everyone in the mood for Halloween this season, Campus Activities Board (CAB) planned a trip to Pirates of Emerson. This is a Halloween theme park consisting of five haunted houses along with music and food. Luckily for students without cars, CAB provided transportation to this Bay Area Halloween tradition.

Two student-driven vans shuttled approximately thirty students to the theme park. When we entered the park, I could feel the Halloween spirit as we were greeted by a man dressed as a pirate with dirt on his face. We got our free tickets from him and explored the map of the theme park, trying to decide which haunted house to go to first.

The five haunted houses were named Holiday Horror, Psycho Path, Pirates of Emerson, Haunted, and Prison Panic. Holiday Horror was a Christmas themed haunted house, although it had a spooky twist to it. The inside was filled with smoke which makes it hard to see and there were a few jump-scars.

Psycho Path was the second haunted house that my friends and I explored. This was the only one that was outdoors and it was designed like a corn maze. Once in the maze, there is no turning back. As if this was not scary enough, shortly thereafter, a man with a chainsaw chased us! After we escaped from him, we entered a small

hut where a woman with blood on her face popped up. There was also a fake dead pig with blood on it too hanging in the doorway.

Toward the end of this haunted house, there was another maze that was completely dark illuminated by only a few flashing lights, which made it hard to see. The point of this part was to get out of the maze with limited visibility. To make it even scarier, there was a woman with an axe who followed us. When we thought we had finished the maze, the man with a chainsaw appeared again to give us another scare before we were let out of the haunted house.

One of my friends, Natasha Yerramilli, said, “I was expecting to not like the event since I am not a fan of scary things, but I must say, I really enjoyed it because I went with my friends; it was fun to be scared together. The Psycho Path haunted house, the one with the chainsaw man and the maze, was, by far, the scariest. I could not see where I was going and it felt like I was just going in circles.”

The next haunted house we explored was Pirates of Emerson. Although I assumed that this would be the scariest as the theme park was named after it, it actually had less jump scares than the other two. This one was characterized by unsettling darkness

and the inherent uncertainty as to where one was going. The space was narrower so my friends and I had to walk in a single file line rather than together in a group.

The last one that we explored was Haunted. This house was similar to the previous one in the sense that it was very dark and the hallways were narrow. The part that stood out to me was that there was a man with a mask who came close to our faces.

Although the van from CAB had arrived before we could go to the Prison Panic haunted house, I had heard positive reviews from others about it.

In conclusion, though certain parts of the theme park were true scares, it was more an adventure for people like myself who do not like scary things. Aubrie McKeever, a senior at Saint Mary’s, wrote, “I really liked Pirates of Emerson. I liked how it wasn’t too scary like Great America or Six Flags, yet the mazes were more based on special effects like the use of strobe lights and fog, and it was more of a maze with many doors and illusions. The goals were primarily not to get lost while dealing with optical illusions rather than having someone be jump out at you.” Pirates of Emerson was a successful event sponsored by the Campus Activities Board and let us hope that they offer more events like this for students.

Campus Calendar

- Veteran’s Luncheon**
Wednesday, Nov. 7
1:00-2:30 p.m.
Soda Activity Center:
Orinda Room
Contact Cynthia Cutshall
Cac13@stmarys-ca.edu
- Study Abroad Information Sessions**
Wednesday, Nov. 7
2:00-3:00 p.m.
Brother Jerome West Hall, 130
Contact Center for International Programs
studyabroad@stmarys-ca.edu
- Eucharistic Adoration**
Wednesday, Nov. 7
8:00 p.m.
Chapel: Side
Contact Halen Gamino
Hac5@stmarys-ca.edu
- Community Conversation for Students on the Sex Abuse Scandal in the Catholic Church**
Thursday, Nov. 8
6:00-9:00 p.m.
Soda Activity Center:
Orinda Room
Contact Karin McClelland
X4013
- Staff Council Meeting**
Tuesday, Nov. 13
12:00-1:30 p.m.
De La Salle Hall:
Hagerty Lounge
Contact Staff Council
staff_council@stmarys-ca.edu
- Graphicanos Docent Tours**
Tuesday, Nov. 13
5:00-7:00 p.m.
SMC Museum of Art

Father Bryan Massingale: Racial Justice & the Catholic & Lasallian Traditions
Tuesday, Nov 13,
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Soda Activity Center:
Moraga Room
Contact:
Frances Sweeney
fsweeney@stmarys-ca.edu.

SMC Charity Car Show
Nov. 18
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
SMC Front lot
Contact:
distinguishedautogroup@gmail.com

The Campus Calendar column is a service highlighting major events of the week. To include your event, email details to staff@stmaryscollegian.com.



OPINION

But when will an Audi hit me?

Student one lawsuit away from big break

BY CAROLINE BINLEY
OPINION EDITOR

After a rousing Seminar discussion, junior Jane Doe* made the 6-minute drive back to her Ascot apartment. She was shaken by the student who, like the president, seemed to believe the author of “What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?” was still kicking. She was on the phone with her mom. She was highly caffeinated. She was completely unfocused on her talent behind the wheel. It should be no surprise, then, that Doe side-swiped an Audi while trying to parallel into a primo parking spot (only half a mile from her front door!).

She damaged the innocent Audi’s paint job, as well as her own. She screamed; she cried; she anxiously requested \$500 from her little brother on Venmo. (He shrewdly denied it.) And she had one question for the universe: come on, guys, don’t you know this is totally backwards? When will an Audi hit me?

When will I, blissfully unaware, stroll through a Whole Foods parking lot and get just whacked by the front of a luxury vehicle? Send my avocados flying; send my wine plummeting to the ground. You break it, you buy it — and my college tuition to boot.

I beseech you, great cosmos: I am ready and willing to wear a neck brace. I am ready and willing to need a neck brace. Just send a Model X P100D through that stop sign and into my tiny body, poised and ready mid-crosswalk.

Come on, world, there’s an opportunity here. I’m broke. I’m sad. My car has a big black scrape on the passenger side, and I attend a Catholic college dedicated to concern for the poor and social justice. That’s why the sticker price just jumped to \$64,712.

Doe’s story is not uncommon; 98 percent of students surveyed** were willing to take a Moraga mom’s Mercedes to the chest if the owner would pay Saint Mary’s ever-increasing tuition and fees. Freshman John Smith*** was one of them.

“I mean, this college might as well be attempting vehicular manslaughter 365 days a year,” Smith said. “My mom was within inches of a psychiatric break when I told her we’d have to find an extra \$3,806 next year. At least the Mercedes would be liable in court.”

Smith works two jobs, one as a note-taker and another as a cashier at the campus bookstore. To save on housing costs as a sophomore, he is banding together with a few friends to rent a cardboard box off campus. Alternatively, he may commute from his family home in Idaho.

Meanwhile, the college has renovated Dryden Hall, redone McKeon, and converted a popular study space to a \$10-drink bar. Professors will not see a significant pay raise in the 2019-2020 school year.

*Not a real student.

**Not a real survey.

***Seeing a pattern here?

Politics is more than casting your vote

BY TOM R. MUYUNGA-MUKASA
STAFF WRITER

As the midterm elections unfold, many should be aware that politics is more than casting the vote. This should be a cliché, but unfortunately, it is not. Mention the word “politics” and most people get an anxiety attack. I often discuss politics with my friend Jimenez, born-and-bred in California and Florida. I asked Jimenez to break down what politics is.

Politics is putting people’s interests in perspective. Interests could be material, expressed or otherwise. Most times, people’s interests clash, and they need some form of arbitration. This arbitration is influenced by who makes the case and how government and non-government organizations are set up to provide for all people (emphasis on all).

This conduct of business is politics in action. Politics is not about depriving some and privileging others. Politics brings into perspective the identities or status enjoyed by people. At all levels of government, the tendency to find fulfilling life for people is a must. It is this meaning, nuance or problem-solving that, in turn, informs how to use appropriate resources for the good and benefit of people.

I realized that politics was more than casting a vote. Politics explored and linked needs to solutions in the form of goods and services. It means that there must be social infrastructure in place for demand and provision of services. It dawned on me that a city having well-maintained roads, hospitals, schools, and recreational centers means the existence of a default care system for people. Politics is about preserving people’s lives. Politics is about expressing interests and finding out how best the interests can become commodities, goods, or services.

I asked Jimenez to go slow because I was getting lost being an ignoramus politica. All I thought about politics was when one gets to the age when they are able to register, become voters and actually vote. It was clear I



CASTING YOUR VOTE TODAY is an important part of political life, but it’s only one small part of the picture. (Courtesy of Public Policy Institute of California)

was in for a deeper immersion into the subject.

Politics is so many things. I was expecting Jimenez to have mentioned Hurricane Michael, Trump, senators, Congress, the judiciary or ballots. After all, we were discussing politics. “To fully talk about politics, one has to be ready to talk about the layers that make politics emotive. This is how one gauges where influence, power or forces of change lie,” answered Jimenez. “One has to know that all politics is local and it begins with interests then segues into aspects of influences, power or forces of change. Understanding this, leads to understanding why there are laws, codes of conduct, resource acquisition, and maintenance of decorum.”

Politics is all those minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour, day-by-day actions through which goods, services, and resources are used to meet people’s needs or interests. Resources may come in the form of an army or the police helping to provide support for people who are victims of an earthquake or a flood. Politics can

range from an activity such as the police quelling a riot in Los Angeles or Oakland to people in California petitioning for Proposition 8 (2018).

In signing up for Proposition 8, the committee can get the right amount of signatures for it to move from being an initiative and it becomes an issue to be put up on a ballot. All the necessary knocking on doors, getting people to sign, putting up billboards, making announcements for and against a given proposition that comes up and the eventual moment when people go to the polls is all considered politics.

Indeed, politics is more than casting the vote. This realization made more sense to me.

Politics is about being astute, wise and compassionate as one goes about the management of affairs. Politics is about planning for general or specific goals, acceptable standard operating procedures at different levels of governance or administration.

This reminds me of a saying I saw on a mural in The San Francisco Public Library: “Politics is nothing more than medicine on a grand scale.”

HOT TAKE SNACK BREAK

Grab your favorite snack and see what your peers have to say about the world this week - read ‘em while they’re hot!

UBER? MORE LIKE BOOOOOOO-BER

While we aren’t at the point where self-driving vehicles have taken over the world (in true I, Robot fashion), we are currently living in a time where we have blank-faced individuals controlling cars for drunk millennials. That’s right. I’m here to say that every ride-hailing service is basically the bane of my existence. There are multiple reasons for me to come to this conclusion - one of them is the lack of common driving courtesy. Since when were Uber and Lyft drivers supposed to be like asshole, New York taxi drivers? I have avoided one-too-many potentially fatal accidents all because they decided to cut me off or pull out to get to their next paycheck (ahem, I mean, customer). Then, there’s the clear contradiction of Uber’s ultimate goal, which has been repeated by the company’s CEO, Dara Khosrowshahi, multiple times. For those don’t know, Uber’s main objective is to reduce individual car ownership and thereby, promote decongestion and a better environment. So then why is that ride-hailing services have resulted in a 160% increase in driving on city streets? Could the statisticians not count properly? No that’s not it, but you know what the answer is: ride-hailing services. As for the future, I hope self-driving vehicles will at least be programmed to have some common decency. At least we won’t have to leave them tips.

TERRILYN HO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

THE GOLDEN AGE OF TELEVISION: AN EMBARRASSMENT OF RICHES

Is ignorance bliss? I love TV. There is a part of me that is so grateful to be living in a time when there is not only more content than ever before, but better content. But there’s not enough time in the world to watch it all. The world into which I was born offers more good shows than I will ever be able to watch. Its curse is not only the FOMO of not watching a show a friend recommends to you or the look in their face when you tell them so, but also that my friends will never know the incredible story of FX’s The Americans. Even when I do indulge myself in a Curb Your Enthusiasm binge, I sometimes can’t help but think, “I should read a book.” But there’s no time for that; the sirens call. I can’t really say I wish I were born in a different time with fewer quality TV options, but wouldn’t life be easier?

JACK BARNES
COPY EDITOR

HUNGRY FOR MORE?

Uh oh, your hottest take is all dressed up with no where to go. We want to publish it. Come to the next Collegian storyboarding session, Monday, November 5th, or shoot us an email at smccollegian@gmail.com.

OPINION

Extracurriculars outside major essential to well-rounded education

BY KA LOUGHMAN
OPINION EDITOR

I have been involved in Saint Mary's Glee Club and Chamber Singers since my very first day at Saint Mary's, three and a half years ago. I was a scared and nervous first-year who had enjoyed choir in high school, and I was desperately searching for a way to hold on to a bit of familiarity in the new world of college. Before arriving on campus, I had indicated my interest in the choirs to the Director, Dr. Julie Ford, who encouraged me to sign up for an audition slot. I didn't think I would get in. I wasn't a music major and could barely read music, and the choir was fresh off two victorious performances - the World Choir Games in Latvia, and Carnegie Hall in New York City. Why would such an illustrious group want me?

But I could not bear to let the opportunity to participate in something I loved pass me by. So on my first day of classes, I dutifully trekked from my 8:00 a.m. Comparative Politics course in Dante up to Syufy Hall to audition. I passed the initial pitch-matching and ear-testing, and was invited to join the rest of the choir for a group audition the next day. They handed me the audition sheet music (Trond Kverno's gorgeous baroque-era piece, Ave Maris Stella) and told me to show up at 5:00 pm.

Upon my arrival the next day, I was warmly welcomed into the fold by returning choir members and new choir hopefuls like myself, many of whom were non-music majors like myself. When we all settled down to begin working on the piece, I was stunned at the quality of music being made and inspired by everyone's high skill level. Hearing the choir sing for the first time in that first rehearsal, I had only one thought: I needed to be here. I couldn't ever remember wanting anything so badly as I wanted to stay in that room, with that group - to continue to hear the collective group of voices blending together perfectly in harmony. I realized that I wasn't alone here - that I belonged somewhere. And as a terrified first-year, that was the most important thing in the world.

To my own excitement (and surprise), I passed the group audition and gained admission into the choirs. And over the past three and a half years as a member of this elite group, my growth as a musician and a performer has stunned me. I've learned to read music, to pronounce text in languages ranging from Swahili to Latin to German, and to hold my own pitch amongst dissonance and strain within the group. I have made lifelong friends and visited corners of the world I would have never expected to see - the choirs have taken me from San



THE SMC CHAMBER SINGERS AND GLEE CLUB competed at the World Choir Games in South Africa this past summer. (Courtesy of KA Loughman)

Francisco and San Jose to Budapest, Vienna and South Africa, all in the name of sharing music with the musical community, on both local and global scales. Will any of these things help me in my future career as an author, journalist or creative writing professor? It is unlikely. Have they still contributed to a fulfilling, unique, and well-rounded Saint Mary's education? Without a doubt.

I am not a music major — in fact, performing arts has very little relevance to my field of study and my future career. However, it is something that has never failed to bring me joy. Singing has been my lifelong love, the one thing in my life I knew for certain I was good at, and though I have given up things relating to my major in order to participate in the choirs, I have never once regretted it. Indulging your love in what brings you joy will never be a waste of time — no matter how it relates to your degree.

I am not a music major - in fact, performing arts has very little relevance to my field of study and my future career. However, it is something that has never failed to bring me joy. ... Indulging your love in what brings you joy will never be a waste of time - no matter how it relates to your degree.

Save circles for Seminar: round tables have no place in lectures

BY AUBRIE MCKEEVER
STAFF WRITER

Many classrooms in Dante, Sichel, and Garaventa, and in Filippi Academic Hall have circular seating, and these rooms aren't booked solely for Seminar. Circular seating that fosters an inclusive learning environment make sense for Seminar; however, for every other single class, it's unnecessary.

Most classes are lecture-style, meaning you aren't in discussion for the whole class period. In these situations, I find sitting in a circle distracting, a waste of space, unproductive and a strain on your neck.

It is distracting because when you are facing straight, you are really just staring at the person across from you, instead of focusing on the teacher. This is a distraction because instead of focusing on what the teacher is saying or doing, your natural gaze is going to another student since when you look up all you see are students, not the teacher. To see the teacher you have to turn your neck, which might cause quite a strain, depending on where you're seated. Plus, if you sit all the way across from the professor, you won't be able to see the board anymore.

It is such a waste of space; the whole middle of the room is empty. This is terrible for people who have bad vision and would like to sit in the front rows without hurting their neck.

If you want to see, you're forced to sit at the ends of the circle closest to the teacher, but you will get neck pain from turning your neck because your body is facing perpendicular from the teacher.

I feel less productive in class because it is so distracting to see students in front of you instead of the teacher. I'm a visual learner,



SEMINAR-STYLE CLASSROOMS are sometimes used for other purposes, and their circular seating arrangements create problems for lectures. (Courtesy of The Collegian)

so I need to see the board and teacher easily, but if I sit at the ends of the circle (closest to board and teacher), I'm still left facing a classmate. This is really distracting because it's natural to look up and not turn your head the other way. Even when I am turning my head I still can see people in my peripheral vision. So it's not helpful to see so many students when I just want to see what the teacher is doing. If the seating arrangement had all students face forward, I feel I'd be more productive and work to my best ability.

I would take better notes because I'd be able to sit in the front row, whereas in the

Seminar circle there is no front, making it hard to see the board. I would also be less distracted since I'd only be seeing the teacher in front of me instead of having to see other students talking nearby. I think it'd be easier to focus in class and less strain on my neck, since when sitting in a circle, you aren't ever facing the teacher unless you're in the very back of the classroom, but the issue with this is that it causes you to not see the board clearly.

Sitting in circles is a waste of space and makes the classroom more cramped than it needs to be. For example, one of my business

classes is very full, yet we sit in a circle, so we can't utilize most of the space in class. We are so squished sitting in a circle when it's not necessary or useful. I could easily knock someone else's desk just by moving a little. It's uncomfortable to learn in that type of environment.

If the class is more than half a lecture, there is no need to sit in Seminar style. If I'm doing math, sitting in a Seminar circle causes distractions, pain, and decreases productivity. In order for me to learn best, I need a comfortable environment. Seminar circles are stopping that.

CULTURE

Connection: What *Día de Los Muertos* Means To Me

BY EMILY SANCHEZ
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Originally, when I was approached about writing this article, I thought about the many different traditions and experiences of Latinx Culture regarding our celebration of our dead.

As a person of color, I am all too familiar when one is asked to speak for the entirety of a culture as though the many countries that are part of the Latinx culture have one cultural practice. This is problematic when I speak and people take my experience to be true of all Latinx culture. So, for these reasons and out of respect for other Latinx traditions and celebrations, and out of respect for our ancestors, I will instead be discussing *Día de Los Muertos* from my personal experience.

The *Día de Los Muertos* that I know is not the holiday that the United States has decided to capitalize on. Here in the United States, *Día de Los Muertos* is an “afterthought” holiday celebrated after the more important Halloween.

In Mexico, *Día de Los Muertos* is the more prominent holiday but the celebrations vary from state to state and even town to town. For example, it is as important as Christmas is in the United States. In my experience, *Día de Los Muertos* is a bigger and more beautiful event in Oaxaca and Mexico City than in Jalisco and

and Guanajuato, which are the states of origin of my mother and father, respectively.

When we were in Mexico, my family and I began the holiday's celebrations on Oct. 30 or Oct. 31 when we would begin making pan de muerto. Pan de muerto is a sweet bread that we eat and put out for our loved ones in order to give them food when they cross from the spiritual world to our world. On Oct. 31, we would go to the cemetery to put up an altar for our loved ones. Little children would wear masks of skeletons, decorate sugar skulls, and eat pan de muerto. *Día de Los Muertos* is a two-and-a-half day event where the whole community is involved in celebrating and welcoming their loved ones.

Here in the United States,

Día de los Muertos brings us closer to our ancestors and connects us to our roots.

my family and I do not visit the cemetery because our dead are buried in Mexico, nowhere near us. Instead, we make an altar at home. We decorate a small table with marigolds, pan, and the favorite things of our loved ones in this life such as roses, atole, and



ALTARS are an important component of *Día de Los Muertos*. (Courtesy of Lajollamom.com)

cerveza. The altar is completed by the 31st and we leave it up the entire month of November. The altar in our home is a special reminder to my family and me that our loved ones are always with us, even though they are no longer

living. We also like to play the favorite music of our loved ones in our home because it brings back good memories. I feel that the altar and the music connect us as a family and to our dearly departed family.

Altars are an important component of *Día de Los Muertos* and they vary from family to family. One very traditional part of altars is the marigolds, which are standard flowers to add to an altar or bring to the cemetery, but even then it is not a requirement to have them. That is what makes *Día de Los Muertos* so special for me: everyone and every family does what they need to do to celebrate their loved ones.

When I was little, I was told that the color of the marigold was so bright in the other life that it helped our loved ones find their way to us. A marigold is a bright yellow flower, with small fragile petals that is supposed to symbolize death. However, I like to think of a marigold as a symbol of life and love.

In our home, we buy marigolds and put them in small vases around the altar and mix them in with roses. We do this because my Dad's favorite flower was a red rose. Our most recent addition to our altar is my Dad. Some of his favorite things were a guitar and frogs, so we have mini guitar and frog figurines for him at the altar, along with the atole, and cerveza.

Día de Los Muertos is a special way for my family and me to connect to our culture by practicing our traditions. It is important because for my family and me, *Día de Los Muertos* brings us closer to our ancestors and connects us to our roots.

Daylight Saving Time: Should it Stay or Should it Go?

BY VICTORIA VIDALES
CULTURE COLUMNIST

This past Sunday, Daylight Saving Time ended and we had to move our clocks one hour back. Americans are divided about Daylight Saving Time (DST) and Californians have a chance to put a stop to DST altogether.

Today is Midterm Election Day in California and one bill that Californians will be voting on today is Proposition 7, which would eliminate the Daylight Saving Time Act. The Daylight Saving Time Act, which requires citizens to set their clock forward an hour every spring and backwards an hour every fall by one hour every spring and fall, is one of the most critiqued nationwide laws in the United States.

This proposition would not completely repeal the Daylight Saving Time Act from California, but instead would allow legislature to update and influence the time. For the bill to be repealed altogether, an alternative time bill would have to be proposed and signed in.

The history of the United States' relationship with time can be traced to the Standard Time Act of 1918, which issued time zones and the early beginnings of daylight saving, but it was repealed in 1919. During World War II, the United States reinstated daylight saving to conserve electricity in a time of war. After the war, however, states reverted back to choosing their own time. It was not until 1966 with the



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME is on the ballot for California, where Prop 7 would give the Legislature the ability to change DST period. (Courtesy of The Telegraph)

Uniform Time Act that daylight savings was nationally enacted.

The support to get rid of the Daylight Saving Time Act has been popular for decades, however, it was only until this election season that Assemblyman Kansen Chu was able to get the bill passed by the state Assembly to get onto the ballot. Chu and other supporters of the bill argue that the reasons behind the time change are outdated and ineffective to save electricity -- when the days are longer, more people use their cooling technology. They

also argue that there are significant negative effects to people's health when their sleeping patterns are interrupted. These include, in severe cases, heart attacks.

Arizona and Hawaii are the two states that do not observe daylight savings, choosing instead to remain on the same time year round. For the state of Arizona, this makes them two hours behind New York, and one hour ahead of California. To adapt, Arizonans have their television programs and sporting events

pushed back one hour to be on time with the rest of the country's. Although they may seem out of the loop, people in Arizona are pleased with their decision. For example, in 2014, both Republican and Democrat politicians united to reject the proposition when it was proposed to join DST.

However, supporters of the the Daylight Saving Time Act argue that retracting it would cause more problems for the state of California. According to The Sacramento Bee, not being on the same time schedule as the

majority of the country, excluding Arizona and Hawaii, would be costly.

Opponents have argued that it would be difficult for people in the workforce that live in different states to be on the same time for meetings and deadlines. Each day when in DST is in effect, California would be on a different schedule than other states. International airline travel would also be affected. For example, in 2005, it was reported that when DST was extended for a month, the Air Transport Association feared the costs of keeping flights aligned would exceed \$140 million.

Some opponents also feel that this bill is a waste of valuable time and that legislatures should be focusing on other more vital issues for California, specifically climate change, and immigration. There is also the argument of a continuous inconsistency, as the bill has been reformed so many times it is now the time to leave it alone.

DST has always had an impact on pop culture and inspires relatable references. Memes about the difficulty in coping with the changing sleep patterns and clock setting have frequented social media for the past few days. Nationwide people also feel divided over daylight savings, many citing similar reasons that the people of California do. No doubt that should it pass, this bill will have significant long term effects on the people of California and will be a long process for years to come.

SPORTS

Two 2018 Heisman Hopefuls Stand Above the Rest



KYLER MURRAY AND TUA TAGOVAILOA have been consistent leaders in for the Heismann award in the eyes of experts, keeping their spotlight brighter than ever. (Courtesy of Sports Illustrated)

BY HENRY PENALOSA
SPORTS EDITOR

The Heisman Award is the most coveted individual achievement in college football. Awarded to the best player for that year. This season has seen some great individual performances by Josh Allen, Dwayne Haskins and Gardner Minshew, to name a few. However, if we are going to discuss the actual favorites for the Heisman, we have to talk about Tua Tagovailoa (University of Alabama) and Kyler Murray (University of Oklahoma) ... exclusively.

The two quarterbacks are destroying their respective conferences. Together, Tua and Murray are transcending the traditional quarterback position. I would say Murray especially, but the margin is small. Neither are run-first quarterbacks by any means, but the instinct and physical prowess they bring to

their own running games is nightmare fuel for opposing defenses.

Even then, the highlight reel begins and ends with their passing. They both bost quarterback ratings of over 90 for the entire season so far. First off, wow. That average

Dime after dime, touchdown after touchdown, the two of these atheles are giving us a taste of American Football at the quarterback position

production is incredible. They have both thrown for more than 2000 yards and 25 touchdowns, with a completion percentage of over 70%.

Murray has had to carry more of the offensive load than Tagovailoa

because Alabama is absolutely loaded at about every single position, so the running backs get plenty of touches as well, taking the ball out of Tagovailoa's hands. For Murray, having to scramble and improvise just plays into his strengths. On some offensive sets, when the pocket collapses, Murray suddenly becomes a speed back. Kyler is Murray is not just a quarterback with a good ground game and passing game. When he cradles the ball it's like something different starts happening in his mind. He never hesitates to sprint into the open field, and he isn't easy to tackle either. Murray will juke and bolt his way 60 yards in an instant, and it seems like no one even laid a hand on him.

Tua has better pass protection, and a great complementary run game to his advantage. I am not trying to say that Tua has it easy. Not by

a long shot. Even with a great team, the SEC is a stacked conference, but 'Bama makes them look silly. Just last Saturday they shut out number 4 ranked LSU. Tua has been able to make great use of his offensive tools at Alabama. His receivers are acrobats with hand of gorilla glue and his passing game is sublime to boot.

Dime after dime, touchdown after touchdown, the two of these athletes are giving us a taste of the future of American Football at the quarterback position. These Cam Newton-esque athletes are able to throw the long bombs for impressive touchdowns, or torch you team's secondary in the same possession.

Because of the team that Murray carries, he might end up being the favorite to win, but right now it is Tua's to lose. It isn't like Alabama carries Tua. He is the best player on the best team in the country.

Finally, Something to Write Home About in Sacramento

BY HENRY PENALOSA
SPORTS EDITOR

What I am referring to, of course, are the Sacramento Kings, who have done well enough for themselves this season to start out 6-3. You wouldn't call it impressive, but maybe it represents a final change in the culture of Sacramento, something that the executives have been trying (I think) to accomplish for the last decade at least. Currently, the Kings are 4th in points per game and 2nd in pace. Compared to their stats from last year, they've made a huge leap thus far (last in PPG and last in pace). I guess it makes sense at this point. It seems like the Kings have been subtly building towards this type of high paced offense for a while now. Leading the team in scoring are three athletes built for a high paced attack. Buddy Hield is playing to his strengths, running and gunning as De'Aaron Fox and Willie Cauley-Stein have made for a strong duo in pick and roll situations. Consistent scoring from Nemanja Bjelica and Marvin Bagley has helped take pressure off as well. All five are averaging 10+ ppg.

Probably the most exciting aspect of this story to Kings fans is the emergence of De'Aaron Fox as a possible centerpiece for the future. Coming out of Kentucky, Fox's speed caught the eyes of NBA scouts. Initially, that was his best quality,



DE'AARON FOX has lead the Sacramento Kings to a good start this season and may be the leader the team needs to build around (Courtesy of SB Nation)

which helped his transition game, but it didn't seem like he was able to translate his incredible physical ability into something more than just a speedster. This year, he has proven that he can. His fearless dives to the basket display a sense of urgency, and vigor, and leadership. It's easy so see that the effort he's been putting in on the court has changed the whole culture of Sacramento basketball. Along with this sprouting physical leadership, his stats have improved considerably. De'Aaron Fox is averaging career highs in points, rebounds, assists and field-goal percentage. This triple threat of effort, leadership and straight

filling up the stat sheet means that Fox should be priority number 1 for the Kings moving forward. Players like him are the type to build around. They don't start fights, they don't complain, and if you pay him, he might even stay in free-agency.

On the other side of the ball, they need some work. Although defense has been improvement from last year, it is still far from decent. They are 21st in points allowed per game and 15th in defensive rating. Similarly to their offensive achievements, this also makes sense. Buddy Hield is undersized and has never been regarded as a "defense-first" kind of guy. Fox and Cauley-Stein have

defensive potential without a doubt, but with a pick like Marvin Bagley and the rest of the Kings roster behind them, the team effort usually falls short. But if anything, like we've seen from the Nuggets and Rockets, beginning with a high-scoring offense and building a defensive core for a couple years can still yield playoff success.

Of course, this is the Kings, so this could all fall apart by tomorrow. They are only one win ahead of their projections up to this point. But for now I think it would be ok if we took a second to appreciate their success because they have certainly earned it.

Sports this week

MEN'S BASKETBALL



November 7 @ 7pm
vs. McNeese State University

MEN'S SOCCER



November 10 @ 1pm
at University of Portland

VOLLEYBALL



November 8th @ 7pm
@ University of Portland
November 10th @ 12pm
@ Gonzaga University

WOMEN'S SOCCER



November 3 @ 4:30pm
@ University of San Francisco

CROSS COUNTRY



November 9th
NCAA West Regionals
Sacramento, California

SPORTS

What Makes the Los(less) Angeles Rams So Good?

BY MATTHEW MCFETRIDGE
SPORTS EDITOR

This article was written prior to the November 4 game against the L.A. Rams and the New Orleans Saints.

That’s a great question. One that opposing head coaches likely ponder before and after playing the undefeated team from southern California. It’s a combination of many factors, but there are two basic statistics that display the Rams’ success. Offensive points per game and defensive points allowed per game.

The Rams’ versatile offense averages 33 points per game, while their defense only allows 19.4. It’s very simple, the Rams, on average, score almost twice as many points than they allow. Prior to week six in Denver, their offense had scored at least 33 points against opposing defenses. And even when they allowed 31 points to the Vikings and Seahawks in back-to-back weeks, their high-powered offense was able to power through to victory. Those week four and five wins would not have been possible without two players, Jared Goff and Todd Gurley.



THE LOS ANGELES RAMS are the only team in the NFL without a loss this season. Can they keep the streak? (Courtesy of clutchpoints.com)

Against the Vikings, quarterback Jared Goff was responsible for all five touchdowns, throwing for 465 yards and no interceptions. But in the high scoring bout against the Seahawks, Goff struggled, throwing only one touchdown and two interceptions. It was running back Todd Gurley who took over the offense, rushing for three of the Rams four touchdowns.

Gurley is having a stellar year,

rushing for a league high 800 rushing yards and fifteen total touchdowns in eight games. Last season, he racked up 2,093 total yards and nineteen touchdowns, earning him a Pro Bowl selection and First-Team All-Pro honors. If he keeps up his current pace this year, his potential 2,300 total yards and thirty touchdowns would make his 2017 season look like child’s play.

Gurley’s backfield counter-

part, Jared Goff, is having a career year as well, throwing for 2,425 yards, seventeen touchdowns, and just five interceptions. He is on pace for just under 5,000 yards passing and thirty-four touchdowns, with only ten potential interceptions on the year. Goff and Gurley have lead the Ram’s to their success on offense, but defensive players Aaron Donald and John Johnson III have taken control

on defense.

Donald, the 5-year veteran, leads the NFL in sacks with ten, already just one short of his career best of eleven. Safety John Johnson III ranks in the top ten among defensive players in pass deflections and interceptions. With Donald wreaking havoc up front and Johnson locking down the secondary, the Rams’ defense has shut down many teams this season, averaging less than twenty points allowed per game. Defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh and middle linebacker Cory Littelton also add to the strength of this stout defense, contributing to its top ten rankings in fewest total yards a game and points allowed.

As a whole, this Rams team does not offer many weaknesses. When the defense struggles, the offense always comes through, and the offense has yet to struggle thus far. Jared Goff and Todd Gurley consistently contribute to their league leading 3541 total yards and third ranked 33 points per game. The Rams have proven they are tough to beat, and if their key players can maintain their current style of play, they just might finish the season perfect.

YOUR SPORTS EDITORS...

...NEED YOUR HELP! ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A STAFF WRITER FOR THE SPORTS SECTION? WE WANT YOU! CONTACT SMCCOLLEGIAN@GMAIL.COM

CALLING ALL SPORTS FANS!